

A tall, clear glass filled with a vibrant red liquid, likely a cocktail. The glass is packed with ice cubes. A cluster of fresh raspberries is perched on the rim of the glass. The background is softly blurred, showing more raspberries and a hint of a wooden surface.

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Coffee date turned happy hour? 5 coffeeshops that sell beer.

By Danielle McFarland

Coffeeshops offer an oasis for the in-betweeners. They strike a balance between home and office; broker the awkward leap from first meeting to first date; let us kill time between obligations; and when we're in limbo until our next paycheck drops, let us bum internet over a cup of cheap tea. And we love them for it.

But Patty Smyth and Don Henley were right. Sometimes love's just not enough. And sometimes, coffee isn't either. You might find yourself in the gray area of the day, in between coffee time and happy hour, hardly sure what to do with yourself, where to go.

Stay put. Coffeehouses are ceding counter space to boozier libations: craft beer, mini cocktails, wine. Chains like Starbucks and Caribou are beginning to flirt with the trend, but small, local coffee shops are beating them to the punch.

MUDDY WATERS

2933 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Often overlooked is Muddy Waters' coffee nook just across from the main bar. Complete with numerous decadent desserts, this place is the perfect starting point for those who want the plausible excuse of a "coffee meeting" but are still leaning towards the traditional bar atmo for beer and wine. Happy hours run every day of the week from 3-5 p.m. and again from 11 p.m. to bar close. Find beer as cheap as \$2 and house wine for as little as \$3 a glass, not to mention full brunch, lunch, and dinner menus.

DUNN BROTHERS

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Dunn Brothers at Hennepin and 25th knows how much we love coffee to bring us up and booze to mellow us out. This outpost, along with some other Dunn Brothers locations, is now serving up local craft beer on tap, as well as wine, alongside the regular coffee brews. Every day from 2-7 p.m. enjoy \$4 beers and \$1 off house wines at the Lowry Hill Dunn Brothers. And if you're the type to savor the moment, one who kisses slowly and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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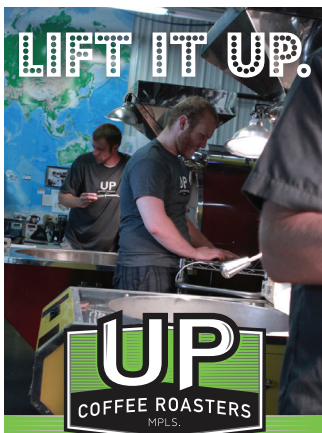
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notices when the neighbor's petunias are in bloom, Dunn Brothers has a micro cocktail with your name on it. Here, you can order a tasty tap beer with an accompanying miniature cocktail that has been crafted special just for your pint – and for a measly \$2.50, adding this beer enhancer is worth the nominal fee. These well thought-out pairings are best when sipped slowly, allowing each swallow to complement the opposing spirit.

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At Common Roots, you can nosh on a bagel at 10 a.m., have an afternoon snack at 2 p.m., and get eyeballs deep in a lovely, local IPA by late afternoon. If you're really smart, you'll go between 4:30 and 6 p.m. for a \$3 beer or \$4 glass of wine. Happy hour runs daily from 4:30-6 p.m., where you can find \$2 off food specials and wash it all down with \$3 beer and \$4 wine deals. Whether it's roasted cauliflower and bagel chips in the summer, or mac and cheese and potato knish when the weather turns, Common Roots has the eats to pair with every season and local beer and wine to boot.

THE BAD WAITRESS

2 E 26th St, Minneapolis

The Bad Waitress: A name that does no justice for the friendly service of this all-day-cafe-turned-tap-beer joint. Here you will find great deals beyond the free coffee mug refills every day until 2 p.m. and the all-day breakfast. For starters, check out their 2-for-1 Tuesday beer deals. Stop on by with your favorite pal, or even that friend you only keep around out of convenience. Either way, this is a helluva deal to beat the beginning-of-the-week blues. No friends? Not to worry. Drink alone any other day of the Monday-Friday week from 3-6 p.m. and again from 9 p.m. to close and enjoy \$3 bottled beer and house wine. Or come back on the weekend for even more 2-for-1 specials.

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joe for a mere \$1.70. Be sure to bring your own mug for free refills. Morning caffeine kick? Check. Workday complete? Check. Happy hour at the same venue that started your day off strong? Check! Black Dog Cafe hosts happy hour every day of the week from 4-7 p.m., which includes \$2 off draft pints, \$4.75 glasses of wine, Grain Belt Premium bottles for just \$2.50, and many other 16-ounce tap beer choices for \$5. Feeling a little too “happy” from happy hour? Soak it all up with a snack from their bountiful food menu. Be it a black bean and cheese quesadilla, Cuban sandwich, or hummus plate, you’ll find a savory snack – most of which are under \$10.

The best days of the week to get your growler fills on the cheap

By Loren Green

Free beer tomorrow. That’s what the sign promised, anyway. We have yet to find those magic taps but there are other ways to get your beer on the discounted side.

A handful of local breweries sell growlers at reduced cost just for coming at the right time. It’s similar to a happy hour but often lasts the whole night.

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BARLEY JOHN’S BREW PUB:

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BENT BREWSTILLERY:

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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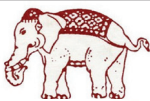
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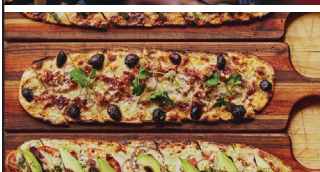
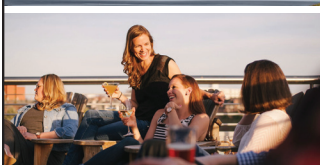
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SATURDAY

56 BREWING:

*Half price fill with purchase of a
stainless steel growler*

And, yes, it would probably help to wear a Hawaiian shirt every day to every brewery just to be safe.

Henry & Son is your new favorite wine shop

By Mary Jo Rasmussen

You know those wines you fall in love with at your favorite restaurant, but can never find in a liquor store to enjoy at home? Your chances of tracking those wines down got a whole lot better when Henry & Son opened in the Harrison neighborhood of Minneapolis.

"I never thought I'd own a liquor store," says Gretchen Skedsvold. But because life works in strange and mysterious ways, she and her husband, Mark Henry, are now the proud proprietors of...a liquor store that focuses on craft wine, beer, and spirits.

The couple moved to Minneapolis from New York in 2012 to be closer to family and to find a house, settle in, and raise their son, Oscar. They eventually found the perfect Victorian fixer-upper in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood. And although both Skedsvold and Henry were able to keep their corporate jobs and telecommute, they share an entrepreneurial spirit and wanted to start a business of their own.

"When we moved here, we couldn't find a lot of the wines we loved," says Skedsvold. They took to having wine delivered, but after a few mishaps, like returning home to find an entire

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the journal of an encounter

NATHAN KEEPERS
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DIRECTED BY DOMINIQUE SERRAND

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shipment frozen on the doorstep, it occurred to them that perhaps they weren't alone in wanting to seek out indie producers using sustainable practices, and the idea of a wine shop began to take shape.

The couples' original intent was to open a shop in their Bryn Mawr neighborhood, but after finding what they thought would be the perfect location, they discovered that zoning restrictions wouldn't allow a liquor store. Despite that setback, "the momentum was going," says Skedsvold, and they were still committed to finding something close to home. A self-described "digger," who loves researching things, she started studying zoning maps, and took to driving around town, scouting out prospects. One day, she happened by the First and First Building, saw an empty space, got the landlord's number from another business in the building, and everything fell into place; Henry & Son opened last October.

The shop has an industrial loft feel to it, with white walls, tall ceilings, exposed ductwork, and a wall of windows facing Glenwood Ave. There's a communal table in the middle of the room, and bottles displayed on cubbyhole-like shelves around the perimeter like little art installations. This place is the antithesis of the new liquor warehouses that have opened recently around town. It also has a distinctly different vibe from the local big boys like Surdyk's, France 44, and Haskell's.

But this is not a place for wine snobs only, although those folks will be delighted to find some off-the-beaten-path surprises. Henry and Skedsvold are equally excited to share their love of wine and their knowledge with people just starting to explore better wines, or looking to expand their palates with something a little more sophisticated or unusual.

The shop hosts tastings on most Thursdays and Fridays, a great opportunity to sample and learn. And don't think you have to drop a lot of money to get a good, interesting bottle of wine – just head over to the 12 wines under \$12 section and stock up. If you ask for recommendations, Skedsvold is happy to oblige. Just don't ask her to choose a favorite wine. "I like wines that make you think," she says, "wines that trigger a memory you can't quite figure out."

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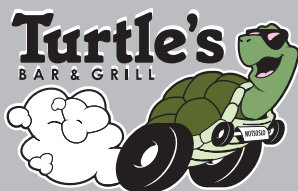
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